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The only conclusion possible is that the observers do not see the same object, partly because the aurora is too low down and partly because there are optical illusions due to alignment. We are viewing a luminous sheet which is folded and refolded. We are also viewing a great collection of bright beams and bright pencils of light parallel to each other like the trees in a forest. Every slight change in the position of the observer alters the collective appearance of the pencils and the folds. The only method of determining parallaxes with any confidence consists in requiring two or more observers to start at the same point, fixing their attention upon one feature ; separate to a short distance in opposite directions and return until they have satisfied themselves that the illusions due to perspective and alignment are not sufficient to nullify the influence of parallax.

Stated Meeting, January 21, 1898.

Vice-President SELLERS in the Chair.

Present, 14 members.

Mr. Alden Sampson, a newly elected member, was presented to the Chair and took his seat.

Acknowledgments of election to membership were received from Richard Olney, William H. Dall, Leroy W. McCay.

Mr. Rosengarten read an obituary notice of the late Treasurer, J. Sergeant Price, Esq.

Dr. Hays was elected Librarian for the ensuing year.

The appointment of the Standing Committees was referred to the President.

The following papers were presented :

For the *Transactions* :

Posthumous papers of the late Dr. Harrison Allen on

"The Glossophaginæ" and on

"The Skull and Teeth of the *Ectophylla alba*."

For the *Proceedings* :

"Specializations in the Lepidopterous Wing—*Pieris Nymphalidæ*," by Mr. A. R. Grote.

"Description of Four New Species of Rocinela, with a Synopsis of the Genus," by Miss Harriet Richardson.

"An Old Broadside, with a Reference to the Throne of Congress," by Mr. Julius F. Sachse, which was discussed by Messrs. McKean, Rosengarten, Hildeburn and Sellers.

The meeting was adjourned by the presiding officer.

DESCRIPTION OF FOUR NEW SPECIES OF *ROCINELA*, WITH A SYNOPSIS OF THE GENUS.

BY HARRIET RICHARDSON.

(Read January 21, 1898.)

I.

The species of *Rocinela* here described were collected by the steamer *Albatross*, of the U. S. Fish Commission, during its various cruises in different localities. One of the species herein described comes from the Alaskan coast; another is from the coast of Cuba, off Havana, and the third comes from the southern part of the Gulf of California.

The new species exhibit unique characters not found in any other representatives. One, *R. cornuta*, has the antero-lateral angles of the first thoracic segment extended forward on each side of the eyes, but not touching them, thus giving the head the appearance of being immersed or deeply set in this segment. Another, *R. tuberculosa*, presents a row of small tubercles on the posterior margin of each one of the thoracic and abdominal segments of the body. In *R. cubensis*, the frontal margin of the head is greatly produced into a large rounded process with a concave surface.

The genus *Rocinela* is now known to include nineteen species,¹ of which nine were included in the monograph published in 1880

¹ *R. liljeborgii* Bovallius (*Bihang Sv. Ak. Handl.*, 1885, Vol. x, No. 10, pp. 3-10, Pls. 1, 2) has been referred to the genus *Syscenus* Harger, and identified with *S. inflexis*, Harger's type species (G. O. Sars, "An Account of the Crustacea of Norway," Vol. ii, *Isopoda*, Pls. iii, iv, pp. 67, 68).